

retirement they purchased her home place in Winston County, Alabama, and relocated there where they resided until Charles' death on August 10, 2011.

Charles was the father of one daughter, Patricia Rucker Goss, and two sons Gregory Anthony (Tony) and David Christopher (Chris) Rucker and was grandfather to 5 grandchildren: Beth Goss Scarborough, Melissa Goss, Leanne Rucker Waldrep, Noah Rucker and Caleb Rucker.

He will be missed by these and many others but the one that will miss him more is his beloved wife of 42 years, Claudia.

Charles was a wonderful individual who had countless friends. He was a much loved husband, father and grandfather and a great American and patriot.

## PROTECT LIFE ACT

SPEECH OF

**HON. GENE GREEN**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 13, 2011*

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to H.R. 358, the Protect Life Act.

At a time when the current unemployment rate is 9.1 percent, we need to focus on creating jobs and spurring economic growth.

Instead, the Majority has chosen to focus on unnecessary legislation aimed at endangering the health of women across this country.

The Majority has spent weeks and months in the House trying to repeal the Patient Protection and Affordable Care act. After those attempts failed they began attacking individual provisions in the health reform law.

The Protect Life Act is another attack on health reform. Beyond that, the legislation is unnecessary.

We already established that no federal funds will be used to perform abortion under health reform because these protections are already included in the underlying law of the land known as the Hyde amendment, which simply states that no federal funds from being used to perform abortions.

Supporters of the Protect Life Act assert that they are ensuring no federal funds being used for abortions, but this argument ignores the overreaching nature of the bill and the dangerous consequences for women associated with this legislation.

Under this legislation, health care entities could refuse to "participate in" abortions. This could mean that a hospital employee could refuse to process bills, handle medical records, or set up an examination room.

The bill also endangers women's health and lives by creating a dangerous loophole in long-standing state and federal laws that require hospitals to provide appropriate emergency care to pregnant women and would eliminate existing protections for women seeking care in emergency circumstances—allowing a hospital to deny abortion care to a woman, even if it would save her life.

The Protect Life Act also allows states to enact sweeping "conscience" laws that would allow health plans to refuse to cover women's preventive services, including birth control, without cost-sharing—potentially undoing a new protection that 66 percent of Americans support.

This legislation goes far beyond any legislation passed by the House with regard to abortion. Quite simply, it endangers the health and lives of women.

Beyond that, we are wasting valuable time on a bill that cannot pass the Senate and will be vetoed by President Obama instead of debating and voting on the American Jobs Act.

Our constituents both Republicans and Democrats want us to work on creating jobs and reducing our deficit. I fail to see how this legislation accomplishes either of those goals.

I strongly urge my colleagues to oppose this legislation.

## THE PASSAGE OF THE COLOMBIA, PANAMA AND SOUTH KOREA FREE TRADE AGREEMENTS

**HON. DAN BURTON**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 14, 2011*

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise in favor of all three free trade agreements that we passed this week. I have been a strong supporter of these agreements for as long as we have been waiting for them to be submitted to Congress. This is a real jobs bill that will certainly help our economy and help people get back to work without spending a dime of the taxpayer's money.

As the Administration has sat on these agreements, the United States has been left in the wake of our international partners who have been able to finalize and benefit from agreements that didn't include us. If the United States does not lead in the Global Economy, it will be forced to follow and the FTAs represent our most definitive step towards leveling the playing field for our workers, farmers, and consumers. To continue to thrive as the greatest economy in the world, we have to put ourselves into a position to compete.

These agreements will enable the private sector to create thousands of jobs both in my home state of Indiana and in the United States at large. In Indiana, Hoosiers should particularly benefit, given that we have seen a 138 percent increase in exports over the past thirteen years. These free trade agreements will cause this number to skyrocket as tariffs and penalties are removed for U.S. companies making capital available to create more jobs. This is further demonstrated by the fact that 42 percent of all U.S. jobs are connected to international trade and 15,752 jobs in my home district are directly supported by exports. By increasing the market share for U.S. companies and eliminating barriers and high tariffs, these companies will increase their profits and use that money to hire new employees. Every \$1 billion in increased exports generates an estimated 25,000 new jobs in all sectors of the economy. It is no longer enough for us to simply buy American, to compete in this harsh environment globally we are going to have to sell American as well.

These free trade agreements are an obvious solution to the problem of slow economic growth. This is a package that will actually stimulate, unlike others that have been passed before. I commend the passage of these agreements. Let's continue to enable America to get back to work.

## E-VERIFY

**HON. KEN CALVERT**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 14, 2011*

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about the E-Verify Program and legislation pending in the House. Last weekend California Governor Jerry Brown signed into law AB 1236, making it illegal for the state and California municipalities to voluntarily use the E-verify system. This is an outrage.

Right now, across America, various states and local governments are enacting mandatory E-Verify. Meanwhile, California is going the other way by enacting a ban on voluntary E-Verify, and in fact the Governor is signing laws to preempt the use of E-verify.

The illegal population looking for work will now head to states that are ignoring the problem and away from states like Arizona and Alabama which have taken a proactive role to fill the vacuum the federal government has left with regard to immigration policy. People will understandably go where they can find work. However, in a state with 12.1% unemployment, we cannot afford the burden on our schools and social services the influx brings. This is why we need a uniform system that ensures ALL workers in America are legal and paying into the system that they are using. That is why I support and am a sponsor of H.R. 2885, the Legal Workforce Act.

Before I came to Congress, I owned and operated several restaurant businesses. I was required by law to hire a legal workforce but there was no tool available to determine if the identifying documentation presented at the time of employment was fraudulent. When I first created employment verification in 1996, I wanted to build a system that would utilize existing information and processes that was reliable, fair and simple to use.

At that time, and still today, every employer is required to file an I-9 form based on paper identification documents. My solution was simple: provide employers a way to check that a given name and Social Security number match government records. Today, the E-Verify program has over 268,000 employers representing 900,000 hiring sites. In fiscal year 2011, there have been more than 10.9 million queries run through the system. The Legal Workforce Act would essentially make E-Verify mandatory by requiring the Secretary of Homeland Security to implement a verification process for mandatory employment verification.

Of the millions of queries run through the computer based E-Verify system, 98.3 percent of employees are instantly verified. Individuals who are given a tentative non-confirmation are given eight business days to contact SSA or DHS regarding their case. Currently one percent of all queried employees choose to contest an E-Verify result and only half of them—point five percent—are successful in contesting that the governments information was incorrect. E-Verify is doing the job it was intended: denying employment to people in the United States not authorized to work.

E-Verify is ready for mandatory use. The Legal Workforce Act would phase in the mandatory requirement over 24 months for most employers with the exception for agricultural labor which will have 36 months to comply. As